The Orthodox Herald

Read in more than 7500 households *"Celebrating our 49th year" 1952-2000*

Volume 49, No. 8 ISSUE 583 DECEMBER 2000

ORIGIN OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

In 1942 young people, many of them first-generation Americans, gathered in Cleveland, Ohio for the national convention of the Federated Russian Orthodox Clubs of America. The world was at war and among the delegation were servicemen home on leave. Although thoughts were centered on helping "our boys" overseas, that weekend the focus turned to the homefront. On the convention floor a motion was made for the F.R.O.C. to establish a Sunday School program. This was a bold move – too bold for some who felt it was the responsibility of the Church to initiate such a project. The motion was defeated.

A year earlier a successful Sunday School program was introduced in Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Jersey City, New Jersey. Under the capable direction of Fr. Michael Dziama, four classes of students received instruction. The children learned prayers, studied the life of Christ and each Sunday's Gospel and Epistle lessons – all in English. The parish already had a well-established Russian School, and both programs co-existed harmoniously for the benefit of the needs of the parish children.

Seeing the success of their own church's program, members of the Jersey City "R" Club collectively brought the idea of a Sunday School to the delegates at the 1943 F.R.O.C. convention in New York City. This time the motion passed. Annette Dziama (now Mrs. Annette Milkovich), who had been in charge of Ss. Peter and Paul's Sunday School, became the first chairperson for the F.R.O.C. Sunday School Committee. Others on the committee were Olga Pianovich, Ann Koren, and Paul Zankovich.

A monumental task lay ahead and help was needed. Former F.R.O.C. Spiritual Advisor and guiding influence of the Jersey City Sunday School, Fr. Michael Dziama was seriously ill and unable to help. He recommended to the committee that they seek advice from Fr. Alexander Kukulevsky of Holy Ghost Church in Bridgeport, CT. Although well-produced

(Continued on Page 45 Col. 1)



с Рождеством Христовым !

CARPATHIAN TOUR NOTES

After several years of not planning a tour of the Carpathians, we decided to sponsor one this year. We left in September to the land surrounding the Carpathian Mountains. This now includes areas of Eastern Slovakia, Southern Poland and Western Ukraine. We found many changes in the few years we have not been there. The store shelves are filled with food. We were intrigued by the frozen foods and noticed the scarcity of canned foods. Dry foods were abundant. Much of what we purchase in specialty stores can be found in the average grocery store. The meat counters were full of so many different types of sausages, we could not resist buying a small piece of some which needed no cooking and a loaf of bread and had a delicious snack. The bread was also delicious and we could make a meal of it with a pat of butter. The food we were served was delicious – but we all longed for a cup of American coffee.

In our earlier tours, it was almost impossible to find a restroom. Now there are many large service areas where gas can be purchased, as well as snack foods and even packages of food ready for the store microwave. The restrooms were available and clean. However, the side roads are still poor, very poorly marked and many villages still have dirt roads.

There were many more beggars in Luoy, Ukraine. Other years these were almost

(Continued on Page 45 Col. 1)

ST. NICHOLAS (DEC. 6/19)

For over 1700 years the generosity and kindness of St. Nicholas, who lived in Asia Minor, has been kept alive through countless stories and legends. We have all heard how he secretly gave money for the dowries of some young women. There was a great food shortage in Myra, and people began to starve. Nicholas promised the people that God would provide for them. Soon after, a fleet of ships bound for Constantinople and loaded with grain was forced to dock at the port of Myra because of a great storm at sea. Nicholas was able to persuade the ships' captains to supply the city with a year's worth of grain. And when the ships finally reached Constantinople, they were still filled with grain.

But there was more to his life.

He was born in 275 to a very wealthy family. He was well educated and decided to become a monk and finally to get ordained a priest. We know that he later became a bishop. Upon the death of his parents, he gave much to the poor and needy. During the persecutions of Diocletian and Maximal, he was imprisoned for being a Christian. He was a defender of God and worked for justice for the people. He saved three men from undeserved death sentences.

He was present at the First Ecumenical Council at Nicea in 325, which condemned Arianism and instituted the first part of the Nicene Creed, which affirms that we believe that Jesus is "the only-begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. Light of Light, true God of true God..." St. Nicholas not only attended the Council, he was an active participant. He was so infuriated by the Arian heresy that it is said that he struck the apostate so severely that "the bones in his body rattled."

He was considered a saint even in his lifetime, and people invoked his help when in torment or stress. He would often appear in dreams and in person to those who called upon him for help. His mere presence would bring solace, peace and

(Continued on Page 45 Col. 2)

THE ORTHODOX HERALD
(USPS 600-140)
(ISSN 0744-1495)
Published monthly by
The Orthodox Herald, Inc.
Transjurisdictional Publication
Special non-profit rate
Entered as Periodical-Class Mail at
Hunlock Creek, PA 18621 and Mahanoy
City, PA 17948 an additional mailing office.
Founders and Editors: V. Rev. W. Basil
Stroyen, M.A., Ph.D., D.D. and Nina Bohush
Stroyen, R.N., D.D., D. Litt
Phone 570-256-7232
Annual Subscription $7.00 a year.
$12.00 for two years.
Packet Plan Rate on Request
Address all correspondence to:
P.O. Box 9
Hunlock Creek, PA 18621-0009
Contributions are tax deductible
Published since 1952

CHRONOLOGY

DECEMBER 2000

ST. STEPHEN is the first Western saint to be formally recognized as an Orthodox saint. He was the first Hungarian king crowned in 1000 by Pope Sylvester II. He was canonized by the Catholic Church in 1083. Herodius, Hungary's first bishop was also recognized.

A COMMEMORATIVE BOOK has been published in English entitled Icons. It was released by the 1000-year-old Holy Monastery of Saint Xenophonion on Mount Athos. It contains all the icons in the monastery's collection, articles by scholars and descriptions of the restoration techniques used. There are 142 full color icons in the 302-page book, which can be ordered for $65 US plus $15 for air mail postage from The Monastery of St. Xenophonics, Mt. Athos, 63087 Daphne, Greece. Specify Greek or English edition.

YOU MAY GIVE TO AN ORTHODOX charity in the United Way and Combined Federal Campaigns, in many State Employee Campaigns and many corporate programs. IOCC has been designated 0348 as the donor number. Call IOCC at 877/803-4622 for more info.

IN AN EXCAVATION south of the Kremlin in Novogrod, three wax tablets of the 11th century were unearthed. They are earlier than the gospels commissioned by Ostomir from Bulgaria in 1056, which had been considered the oldest surviving books in Russia.

THE ORTHODOX IN THE MILITARY now have several chaplains to attend to their spiritual needs. There are 6 in the Army, 11 in the Navy and 8 in the Air Force. There are also several priests serving in the Reserves: Army 5, Navy 3, and Air Force 5. Some priests have been honorably retired. Among these are Army 5, Navy 3, and Air Force 6.

MISSION TEAMS are being organized to work anywhere across five continents. For info: Andrew Lekos, OCMC, PO Box 4319, St. Augustine, FL 32085 or phone 904/829-5132 or email ajlekos@ocmc.org

A HANDBOOK IS AVAILABLE informing how Americans may pursue claims to restitution of their family property in Romania, which was seized by the communists or fascists. Phone (+40) 1-210-4042 ext. 403 or email pr0prest@usembassy.ro

A BOOK ON BIOETHICS covering, among other subjects, euthanasia, abortion, in vitro fertilization, birth control from an Orthodox perspective can be ordered from St. Vladimir's Press at 1-800-204-2665. The Sacred Gift of Life by John Breck.

A CHRISTMAS CASSETTE of hymns and carols in English and Russian, Ukraine, Carpatho-Russian, or Slovakian is available for $12 pp from John Sutko, 8020 So. Major Ave., Burbank, IL 60459-2025.

THOSE ON THE INTERNET might access www.prokrov.org. We do appreciate your evaluations.

A SHRINE in the SW Slavic Carpathian style dedicated to the Protection of the Mother of God can be seen on Ohio Route 619 in Barberton, OH. It is open for prayer at all times.

OVER 370 CASSETTES are available for purchase or to borrow from Orthodox Christian Cassettes, Inc., 2919 No. 56th St., Springdale, AR 72762. Phone for info 501/750-3808. These cassettes cover all aspects of Orthodoxy.

THE WEB SITE http://www.iccweb.org/ offers many pages of information concerning the Carpathian Mountain region of Eastern Europe.

FREQUENT COMMUNION is the practice almost everywhere while confession in many places has disappeared almost completely. Perhaps many have lost sight of the fact that Communion requires preparation. If we neglect confession too often we run the risk of getting used to our "little" errors and sins and of not recognizing them any longer.

THE CHURCH BUILDINGS in two parishes have been added to the National Historical Registry. They are St. Nicholas Church in Salem, MA and St. Gregory of Nyssa Church, built in 1895 in Seaford, NY.

THE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION of the Ukraine Orthodox Church has established an electronic forum to distribute information on seminars, press releases, news items, etc. For info contact Fr. Deacon Joe Kreta at 610/782-0203 or jkreta@erols.com.

THE PARISH IN HASBAYA, LEBANON has dwindled in a few years to a few hundred from thousands, according to Fr. Michael Koury of St. George Orthodox Church. Many of the remaining people fear for their lives if the Iranian-backed Hezbollah take control of South Lebanon.

THE MONASTERY OF ST. CATHERINE in the Sinai is requesting the British Library to return the Codex Sinaiticus, which was stolen by Count Tischendorf over a century ago. It was later acquired by the Tsar of Russia and sold to the British Museum in the 1930s by Stalin. The Codex is the oldest known copy of the New Testament and dates from the 4th century.

PENNSYLVANIA has the next largest number of seniors (60-84) following Florida. It is expected that in the next ten years the number will increase by a third. To disregard this is disastrous for parishes. To neglect the elderly is unChristian. Focus must be put on the need of increased care for their spiritual lives.

RED OR WHITE WINE for communion was the question at an altar wine conference in Rome on June 12. At the institution of the Eucharist, Christ used red wine prescribed by Jewish law during the Passover seder. For 15 centuries both the Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches used red wine. Since the 1500s, Roman Catholics have by in large switched to white because white wine does not leave stains on altar cloths or purificators used to wipe the chalice. The Orthodox have stuck to red wine and use red (purificators) cloths to wipe the chalice.

•Origin of Sunday School

Protestant materials were available, Fr. Kukulevsky emphasized the need for Orthodox materials. These were found through the Syrian Orthodox Church (now known as Antiochian Orthodox).

By the 1944 convention the committee reported that Orthodox materials in English and for all grade levels were now available and would be shipped out as orders were received. An office had been established for this purpose in the Protection of the Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Cathedral in New York City.

Annette Dziama and the Sunday School Committee received much support from fellow F.R.O.C. members and clergy. The F.R.O.C. offered regular financial assistance and members were among the first who volunteered to be Sunday School teachers. What they lacked in experience, they made up for in their enthusiasm and dedication as they brought an understanding of the Orthodox Faith to their parish children. By 1947 there were more than 65 Sunday Schools in Russian Orthodox parishes across America. The early years of the Sunday School had humble beginnings, but the materials were Orthodox and in English.

By the late 1940s there was a need to expand the series of books and improve upon them. Again, much help was needed. Talented individuals within the clergy and F.R.O.C. came forward to accomplish these new goals – among them was a Russian émigré who helped to direct the future of Orthodox education in America.

In the next issue, the first Metropolitan Religious Education Committee.

Margaret Pysarchyk

•Carpathian Tour Notes

always gypsies. This year there were more beggars who were often native Ukrainians.

We plan our tours for September because the weather is near perfect at this time of year. This is important as there is still very little air conditioning in this area. Besides this, the harvest is almost complete and fresh fruits and vegetables are abundant. We noticed the apples on the trees and did get some. Was it our imagination or were the fresh fruits and vegetables tastier than those we can buy in our country?

In Uzhorod, the grapes were being picked for winemaking. This area is known for its delicious wine. We enjoyed and appreciated the freshly picked grapes given to us by Father Basil's relatives. They were so generous. When I returned home, I found that grapes were $1.29 a pound.

One discovery we made on this tour was the Russian perogies in Poland. We saw perogi and Russian perogi on the menu in a diner. When asked what the difference was, we were told that the perogi were potato or cheese filled while the Russian were cabbage or meat filled. We put in an order for Russian perogi – one of each. There were two of us. We were served a dozen of each floating in melted butter. We looked at them and decided that we should have ordered a half dozen of each. However, we ate and talked, ate and talked – and they were all gone. How did they make the dough so thin and soft?

It seems that much of these notes are about food. Next month I'll give other observations.

•St. Nicholas (Dec. 6/19)

goodwill.

He died a natural death. His remains were taken to Bari, Italy.

We should follow this saint's example of generosity and steadfastness in the faith of the Lord and we should plan to do something for someone we see in need. Our motto should be "See the need and fill it."

WINTER'S GRACE

What makes your body decline is not the passing of time alone but, to a great extent, the combined effects of inactivity, poor nutrition, and illness. Your optimism and life long mental engagement are a plus to not only living longer but better – both factors of aging well.

Certain foods will help you age well. These are fruits and vegetables, tea, garlic, olive and canola oil, red grapes and juice, red wine, raisins, nuts, soybeans and fatty fish. Above all, don't smoke or abuse drugs, even prescription drugs, or alcohol.

Pursue activities which acquaint you with new people, places and experiences. Take time to make friends with people of all ages, especially cultivate young people who are much younger than yourself. Stay mentally active and bring out that sense of humor and optimism. Volunteer!

Everyone experiences stress and anxiety. But they need to be controlled because they affect your memory, immune system and raise havoc with your body. You can alleviate stress and its cousin anxiety by trying to work out your problems. First, you must face them. Deal with your grief at loss by seeking help if necessary. Be willing to spend money for services you may need.

GREETED WITH A SONG

I remember a touching scene from a yearly caroling when I was a student in nurses' school. Our group of effervescent and excited young students awakened an hour early to go to the hospital to sing carols before going on duty. We squeezed into the small halls of the hospital and began to sing, "O Come All Ye Faithful." As we sang, we walked down the corridors of the wards, visiting one after another, singing one carol after another. Often, the patients would respond with applause, or a nod, or a smile and a wave of the hand. But some could not do even that much. One dear lady, paralyzed severely by a stroke, did not even have the power to smile. We even wondered if she had heard us. Suddenly one of the student nurses pointed to the woman's hand. We looked and saw one finger moving slightly to the rhythm of our music. She heard and a song of Our Saviour's Birth brought her joy!

How appropriate that it should have, for Our Saviour's coming to earth was greeted with music. The heavenly host burst into a song of praise: "Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Whose astounded mother called herself the "handmaiden of the Lord" when told she would bear a child?
2. Who told the Jews that the Scriptures had testified about him?
3. Which Old Testament book tells about the virgin births?
4. Where is Jesus' Birth in Bethlehem predicted?
5. Where do we first read about Jesus, Mary and Joseph leaving Egypt and returning to Galilee?

ANSWERS:
1. Jesus's (Luke 1:26-38)
2. Jesus (John 5:39-40)
3. (Isaiah 7:14) Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son.
4. (Micah 5:2) But thou Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.
5. (Hosea 11:1) I...called my son out of Egypt.

THE BABAS TAUGHT ME...

I had been away so I had not seen Baba for quite awhile. When I called her to tell her that I was back and would be glad to pick her up for church again, she was quite grateful.

When I picked her up she was quite pensive. She talked about the coming Holy Days. She said that it bothered her that so few people came to church services for the Nativity services. Then she started to reminisce.

"You know," she said, "we looked forward to the Holy Days. Of course, it started with St. Nicholas Day, which comes before the Nativity. We hung stockings up and the Saint filled them with an orange and candy. Do you remember the candy? It was that hard Christmas kind and we always had a few Hershey kisses. How happy we were! We didn't mind that our Christmas was in January, we already had so much joy."

She appeared deep in thought, and then she continued, "You know we didn't feel deprived because we had to wait. There were advantages. There were always Christmas trees left in the yards where they sold them, and they were the nice, expensive ones that no one could afford. If there were none there, someone always threw theirs out and it was still fresh and already had the foil icicles on it. Then we did our shopping later and everything was cheaper. We always found bargains in the drugstore or five and ten. There were no malls, so we went downtown. We children had our money tied in the corner of our hankies and went shopping to buy gifts for our parents. We were so proud of the cheap perfume or box of candy we bought for our mother. We came home and with much giggling and whispering hid our gifts under the bed. Those old iron beds had a lot of room under them, we could crawl under them and hide those gifts way under."

Then she continued, "But the best part was the Holy Night Supper and going to church. It was always so full and I remember the smell of garlic, wet wool clothes and, of course, the hot air heat from the furnace, which some kind soul had been tending all day. All this was mixed with the smell of incense and beeswax."

"But I suppose what I remember most was the sense of excitement, anticipation and joy. You know so many people all praying together and the singing and the chanting. I can't go on."

I'm so glad that Baba shared with me but I must say my memories though later seem so sterile in comparison. But I can share with her the loss of fellow worshippers. Changing the calender only seemed to bring confusion in our parish.

PRESS FUND

We are very grateful to all of you who have shared so graciously with us in the ongoing of the ministry. We do appreciate your encouraging letters, phone calls, the articles and evaluations you send, your prayers, and your gifts. Thank you/Spasebo.

John Sutko, Victory Chaco, **Evelyn Zaleckis,** Anna Dorozynski, Irene Weinacker, Anonymous, Mary Nakulak, Julia Guzy, William Kosar, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Perry Patsiavos, Carole Bohurjak, Mary Kochmaruk, Vera Cibulsky, William Basara, Dora Daley, Eugene Slutyak, Dr. Gennady Platoff, Dr. Michael Taptykoff, Mary Olariu, Leda Taradonova, Helen Krafft, **Helen Karel,** John Bench, Jr., Betty Weaver, Stella Sahonchik, John Beily, Helen Buckowsky, Helen Krafft, Irene Allen, Joseph and Olga Mikus, Julia Sinay, Sophia Coggins, Mary Allen, John James Sprinkle, Catherine Shaffchick, Helen Sadaw, Ethel Watlock. William Holak for health of Anna Mazur. **Anna Dorozynski** in honor of new grandnephew Viktor Alexis Boris. Father and Matushka Stroyen for spiritual strength for Tom, Sergei, Diane, Mary, Mary, Steve, Susan. Lenora and Steve Evancho prayers for health for Fr. and Matushka Stroyen, Sergei Mason, George Mihaly, Dr. Richard West and George and Elizabeth Uhrin.

Mary Arden in memory of Joseph and Barbara. Mary and Philip Yurchak in memory of nephew James Strashinsky who died in May. Mary Superata in memory of husband John who died on March 21; they were married 65 years. Michael Holowis in memory of parents Andrew and Mary. Veronica Heny in memory of her husband Mike who died March 5. **John Spark** in memory of his father Michael. **Michael Guresh** in memory of his wife Rita who died September 21. **Dr. Gennady and Donnya Platoff** in memory of Michael and Helen Karas. Fr. and Matushka Stroyen in memory of Helen Lesko's mother **Eva Durkot** who died October 17. **Fr. Dahulich** in memory of Pani Debra.

* * * * * *

When Apostle Paul heard of the dearly-loved believers who were going through times of trouble, he wrote them letters of counsel and encouragement. These are known as the Epistles. He knew his brethren would find strength to endure as they grew in their understanding of their great God. So St. Paul wrote linking timeless truths with the daily lives of his readers.

Dabs of Thoughts

The twelve days of Christmas are the twelve days between Christmas and Epiphany (Jan. 6/19). They are not the twelve days before Christmas. The song "Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young people to learn the basics of their faith. It was a memory aid.

Trying to dilute the belief in the Birth of the Saviour, the parents of Jesus, are said to have been homeless and the twelve apostles are called the greatest revolutionaries who lived. Further to dilute the impact of the day, Hanuka and Kwanaza are equated as being of equal importance with the Birth of our Saviour.

Parishes who make perohi should make fasting perohi available for the Holy Night Supper.

Straw is blessed in many parishes on the Sunday before Christmas. People are encouraged to take a little home to place under the tablecloth or in the center of the table to remind them of the stable where Jesus was born. "We prepare a place for you, O Lord."

Several parishes are celebrating Christmas twice – one Christmas 25 and the other on January 7.

Christmas is a good time to see ourselves as we always ought to be. It is a time of kindness and forgiveness, a time of self-forgetfulness and remembrance of others, a season of quiet gratitude, appreciation, and joy in belonging to one another. Christmas envelopes us with the spirit that ought always to be ours.

On the calendar we see that Dec. 26/January 8 are identified as the Synaxis of the Mother of God. The word synaxis means "an assembly," especially a liturgical gathering, and refers to the special commemorative services celebrating the day following six of the Great Feasts: The Birth of the Mother of God (Sept. 9/21), Birth of Jesus Christ (Dec. 26/Jan.8), Epiphany (Jan. 7/20), Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple (Feb. 3/16), Annunciation (March 25/Apr. 7) and SS. Peter and Paul (June 30/July 12).



EDITORS' NOTES

Last month we wrote about the indifference to religion. Since then we have been directed to a book which states that it is not indifference but the independent streak of Americans who are more at ease with forms of religious expression that require little in the way of organizational commitment and imposes little in the way of group identity. Add this to living under a secularized government, which has trivialized religion, and in its effort to separate church and state has placed serious obstacles in the way of passing religious traditions from parents down to children; and we may well ask how can we keep people active in the Orthodox Church.

A study has been released by the OCA about the need for consolidating of dioceses. There seems to be reasons for this, as communication has been vastly improved since the original boundaries were formed, the cost of maintaining diocesan headquarters has skyrocketed, the number of communicants is continuing to go down, the population has shifted and travel time has been shortened. A suggestion – why do diocesan boundaries have to be drawn according to state lines? We are familiar with many parishes which would be better served if they were in a diocese in a nearby state.

We had purchased a machine which would enable us to make CDs from our long-playing records. We made a few and were very pleased with the result. But our record player no longer functions. All efforts to repair it have failed. We cannot find a record player to play our LP records. Can anyone direct us to a place where we may obtain one? It must have portals in the back to connect the two machines.

We are in the season of preparing for the Nativity or Birth of Our Saviour Jesus Christ. The Church has deemed it wise to establish this fast so that we might cleanse our souls and become fitting mangers for the newborn Christ.

So many jurisdictions have seminaries which are struggling. The enrollment is low. Some are looking for foreign students to remain viable. In view of this, why are there ordinations of non-seminary graduates? Why do some men have to spend many years of their lives and thousands of dollars to prepare for the priesthood and others are exempt?

Christ is Born! Glorify Him.

The Strogens

NATIVITY SERMON

St. Ephraim, who lived from 306-373, was a deacon all of his life. He was a poet and a theologian and was a prolific writer. He wrote commentaries on many books of the Bible. He was inspired by verse 8 from Psalm 111 to write the following about the Nativity of the Lord.

This Nativity night bestowed peace on the whole world; let no one threaten.

This is the night of the most gentle One; let no one be cruel.

This is the night of the most humble One; let no one be proud.

Now is the day of joy; let us not seek revenge.

Now is the day of good will; let us not be spiteful.

In this day of peace, let us not be conquered by anger.

Today the Bountiful One impoverished Himself for us; therefore, O rich man, invite the poor to your table.

Today we received a Gift; let us give alms to those who implore us and beg.

This day opened the Heavenly door to our prayers; let us open the door to those who ask forgiveness.

Today the Divine One took upon Himself the seal of humanity, so that mankind might be adorned with the seal of Divinity.

THE DEVIL'S BEST TOOL

It was once announced that the devil was going out of business and would offer all his tools for sale to whoever would pay his price. On the night of the sale, they were all attractively displayed, and a bad-looking lot they were. Malice, Hatred, Envy, Jealousy, Sensuality, and Deceit, and all the other implements of evil were spread out, each marked with its price. Apart from the rest lay a harmless looking, wedge-shaped tool, much worn and priced higher than any of them.

Someone asked the devil what it was. "That's Discouragement," was the reply. "Well, why do you price it so high?" "Because," replied the devil, "it is more useful to me than any of the others. I can pry open and get inside whatever way suits me best. It is much worn because I use it with nearly everybody, as few people know it belongs to me." It hardly need be added that the devil's price for discouragement was so high it was never sold. He still owns it, and is still using it.



KITCHEN CORNER

On the evening before Christmas, many families observe the Holy Night Supper. In some parts of Eastern Europe this Supper is called Viliya, which translated is Vigil. So in reality this could be identified as the Vigil Supper as well as Holy Night Supper. This meat-free, dairy-free meal has many courses, but the indispensable dish is kutia – a grain dish, usually wheat or rice, sweetened with honey with raisins or poppy seeds added. This is mandated in church books for this evening. I have given recipes for many of the traditional foods in previous years but have never given the recipe for Sauerkraut and Dried Peas, which some readers have requested. If you don't finish this on Holy Night, it will go well with your baked ham or pork on Christmas Day.

SAUERKRAUT AND PEAS

1/2 cup dried peas
2 cups sauerkraut
1/2 cup water
1 medium onion, chopped
1/4 cup oil
2 Tbls. flour
1 clove garlic, crushed
salt and pepper
1/2 cup cooked mushrooms (optional)

Soak peas overnight. Rinse and drain. Cover with fresh water and simmer until done. Drain sauerkraut and save juice. Rinse sauerkraut in cold water and drain. Add 1/2 cup water and simmer for 15 minutes. Combine sauerkraut and peas, reserve liquid for sauce. Fry onion in oil until soft and light yellow. Sprinkle with flour and over slow heat brown very lightly. Add reserved liquid from sauerkraut and peas, add crushed garlic and stir constantly until sauce thickens. Add sauce to the sauerkraut and peas. Add mushrooms if using. Stir. Taste, add salt and pepper and any reserved sauerkraut juice, if needed. Simmer 30 minutes. This should have a thick consistency. Dried cooked mushrooms are ideal if you have any. Use only 1/4 cup.

* * * * * *

80% of Americans claim to believe in a personal God but only 46% admit going "often" to church.

THE ORTHODOX HERALD
P.O. Box 9
Hunlock Cr., PA 18621-0009
Subscription: $7.00 a year or
$12.00 for 2 years.

$..for..year(s)

Name..

Address..

City...

State ....Zip...

You may obtain THE ORTHODOX HERALD by subscribing to it or by obtaining a copy at your church which obtains them in bulk through the Packet Plan.

When sending in a change of address, please be sure to include the address label from a copy or the code numbers which are printed above your name.

The Orthodox Herald
Fr. Stroyen, Ph.D., Editor
R.N., -- Computerist: Betty Kovach
P.O. Box 9
Hunlock Creek, PA 18621

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID

Christ Is Born! Glorify Him!

OC6 3 DIGIT 947
PATRIARCH ATHENAGORAS
2311 HEARST AVE
BERKELEY CA 94709-1319

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP,
MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685

1A. Title of Publication – **The Orthodox Herald**
1B. Publication No. – **600-140**
2. Date of Filing – **November 1, 2000**
3. Frequency of Issue – **Monthly**
3A. No. of Issues Published Annually – **12**
3B. Annual Subscription Price – **$7.00**
4. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication – **P.O. Box 9, Hunlock Creek, Luzerne, PA 18621-0009**
5. Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters or General Business Office of the Publisher – **PO Box 9, Hunlock Creek, PA 18621-0009**
6. Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor
Publisher – **The Orthodox Herald, Inc., PO Box 9, Hunlock Creek, PA 18621-0009**
Editor – **Fr. W.B. Stroyen, PO Box 9, Hunlock Creek, PA 18621-0009**
Managing Editor – **Nina Stroyen, PO Box 9, Hunlock Creek, PA 18621-0009**
7. Owner –
Full Name – **The Orthodox Herald, Inc.**
Complete Mailing Address – **PO Box 9, Hunlock Creek, PA 18621-0009**
8. Known bondholders, mortgagees, etc. – **None**
9. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes has not changed during preceding 12 months.
10. Average No. of Copies each issue during preceding 12 months.

A.	Total No. Copies (Net Press Run)	**7500**
B.	Paid Circulation	**None**
	Mail Subscriptions	**7430**
C.	Total Paid Circulation	**7430**
D.	Free Distribution by Mail, Carrier or Other Means, Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free Copies	**50**
E.	Total Distribution (Sum of C and D)	**7480**
F.	Copies Not Distributed	
	1. Office Use, Leftovers, Spoiled After Printing	**20**
	2. Returns From News Agents	**None**
G.	Total (Sum of E & F – should equal net press run shown in A)	**7500**

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Fr. W. Basil Stroyen, Ph.D., Editor

FUNDS

ALASKA - Marie Stefanelli, Bishop Roman, Julia Lester

MISSION - Edward Chuprinko, Mary Oleriu

BOTH ALASKA AND MISSION - Anonymous, Dora Daley, Julia Guzy, Ethel Watlock

* * * * * *

John Ruskin said: "We do great injustice to Judas Iscariot, in thinking him wicked above all wickedness. He was only a common money-lover, and like all money-lovers, did not understand Christ."

Home Bible Reading Schedule

DECEMBER 2000

1 Matt 20: 19-26	17 **Luke 14:16-24**
2 Luke 12:32-40	18 Mark 9:42-10:1
3 **Luke 18:18-27**	19 Mark 10:2-12
4 Mark 5:24-34	20 Mark 10:11-16
5 Luke 21:12-19	21 Mark 10:17-27
6 Luke 6:17-23	22 Mark 10:23-32
7 Luke 21:28-33	23 Luke 13:18-29
8 Luke 21:37-22:8	24 **Matt 1:1-25**
9 Luke 8:16-21	25 Matt 2:1-12
10 **Luke 17:12-19**	26 Matt 2:13-23
11 Mark 8:11-21	27 Matt 21:33-42
12 Luke 6:17-23	28 Mark 11:27-33
13 Mark 8:30-34	29 Mark 12:1-12
14 Mark 9:10-16	30 Matt 12:15-21
15 Mark 9:33-41	31 **Matt 2:13-23**
16 Luke 14:1-11	

BIBLE STUDY

On the Sunday of the Holy Fathers the Epistle Hebrews 11; 9-10; 17-23; 32-40 guides us to think about faith. The example of Abraham's faith is particularly striking. Saint Paul says of him that "he went out, not knowing where he was to go."

Making a move is always a time of testing. There are so many things to arrange. We are said to be leaving familiar surroundings and people. We are always somewhat anxious about how we shall set ourselves up in the new place. But consider the test of Abraham who did not even know **where** he was going! If he had faith like that, it is not strange that God would choose him to found a lineage from which the Messiah, God's Anointed One, would come to save the world.

Today we are challenged to recall that in faith each one of us is called upon to follow Abraham's example. For actually no one really knows where he or she is going. To think otherwise is simply to accept an illusion. We are all walking **under God's providence**! It is truly He Who directs our steps!

The way to happiness is to **accept** to live like this: by faith! At Christmas we again have the opportunity to turn towards the Source of this faith, towards Jesus Who comes to be born again in our hearts. Let us go to the manger and kneel before Him - the Lord Almighty and All-sweet! Let us accept to live by faith. Let us walk in the darkness, placing all our confidence in the Lord.

Fr. Kutash, Ph.D.

DECEMBER 17/24 - SUNDAY OF ANCESTORS OF LORD

Colossians 3:4-11 Luke. 14:12-24

The Feast of Your Nativity in the flesh is quickly approaching, O Christ our God, and we have not found time to prepare for it in a spiritual and fitting manner. But through the prayers of Your holy ancestors, allow us to do everything that is pleasing in Your sight; that from this point forward will not make excuses for our lack of commitment to You. We pray to You, O Lord, hear us and have mercy.

O Jesus our true God, the prophets foretold of Your coming using signs, symbols and shadows. But we who have been redeemed by Your most precious Blood proclaim the fulfillment of these prophecies through Your incarnation and birth from a pure Virgin. Illumine the hearts of those here present as they prepare to celebrate the forthcoming feast. Renew their faith and shower them with Your loving-kindness. We pray to You, O Lord, hear us and have mercy.

O Christ, You are the Source of our Life and have created us in Your own image. Therefore, mortify within us anything that separates us from You. Grant us the grace to examine our souls that we may strip away our old selves and put on the new. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put new and right spirits within us. We pray to You, hear us and have mercy.

Ray Mastroberte
Cantor-Artist